United Nations CRC/SP/SR.15

Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Ninth meeting

Summary record of the first part* of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 February 2003, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. Ndiaye (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairperson: Mr. Wenaweser ..... (Liechtenstein)

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* The summary record of the second part of the meeting, held on Monday, 10 February 2003, at 3 p.m., appears as document CRC/SP/SR.15/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that since the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2001, the two Optional Protocols to the Convention had entered into force, in early 2002. There were now 46 States Parties to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 45 States Parties to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The two Optional Protocols would increase the protection available to children worldwide. At the same time, monitoring their implementation would add to the already heavy workload of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to which States Parties would begin to submit their initial reports on implementation during 2004. He pointed out that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with 191 States Parties, remained the most widely accepted human rights instrument.

2. On 18 November 2002, the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention had entered into force, thereby increasing the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 members. He was confident that the increase in the Committee's membership would enable it to address significant challenges, including the backlog of reports awaiting review. The entry into force of the amendment, following its acceptance by 128 States Parties, testified to the respect commanded by the Committee.

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had adopted three General Comments on the aims of education, the role of independent national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting child rights and HIV/AIDS and the rights of the child. It had also convened days of general discussion, and would hold a discussion on the rights of indigenous children in September 2003. The Committee would also be working to support the Independent Expert, who would oversee the preparation of the Secretary-General's study on violence against children, which the Committee had initiated through a recommendation submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

Election of the Chairperson

4. **Mr. Gallegos** (Ecuador) nominated Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) for the office of Chairperson of the Meeting.

5. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein) was elected Chairperson of the Meeting by acclamation.

Adoption of the agenda

6. *The agenda was adopted.*

7. **The Chairperson** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure contained in document CRC/SP/5, and said that he had been informed that the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from a number of the States Parties represented at the Meeting. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States Parties should be permitted provisionally to participate in the meeting on the understanding that the Governments concerned would see to it that their credentials were submitted as soon as possible.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chairperson** said that the Secretary-General had been informed that, following the adoption of a new constitution, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro. The change of name was effective from 10 February 2003, and the new nameplate had been placed accordingly. The nomination of a candidate from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (CRC/SP/33) should therefore be considered as the nomination from Serbia and Montenegro.

Election of other officers of the Meeting

10. *Mr. Cujba (Moldova), Mr. Adabi (Nigeria) and Mr. Stagno (Costa Rica) were elected Vice-Chairpersons.*

Revision of rule 13.1 of the rules of procedure of the Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/SP/5)

11. **The Chairperson** suggested that, as a result of the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2 of the Convention and in accordance with rule 21, the number "10" should be replaced with the number "18" in rule 13, paragraph 1.

12. *It was so decided.*

Election of 13 members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC/SP/33 and Add.1-4)

13. **The Chairperson** said that five vacancies had arisen as a result of members' terms expiring on 28 February 2003, and eight vacancies were available as a result of the entry into force of the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The entry into force of the amendment had financial implications, which were set forth in document CRC/SP/2003/L.2. Those financial implications had been communicated both to the Conference of States Parties when it had adopted the amendment in 1995 (CRC/SP/19), and to the General Assembly when the latter had approved the amendment in resolution 50/155 (A/C.5/50/46).

14. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), introducing draft decision CRC/SP/2003/L.1/Rev.1, said that the entry into force of the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2 of the Convention afforded States Parties a unique opportunity to elect all 13 new members of the Committee simultaneously. In accordance with the usual practice of staggering members' terms in treaty bodies, and as provided for in article 43, paragraph 6, of the Convention, paragraph 3 of the draft decision provided for the drawing of lots to determine which members' terms would expire after two years.

15. *The draft decision was adopted.*

16. **The Chairperson** said that, in accordance with article 43 of the Convention, as amended, 13 members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child were to be elected. The list of candidates was contained in document CRC/SP/33 and Add.1-4. In accordance with the decision just adopted, the terms of four of the newly elected members would expire at the end of two years; their names would be chosen by lot following the election. The terms of the nine other members would expire at the end of four years, and all terms would begin on 1 March 2003. The following candidatures had been withdrawn: Mr. Jean Zermatten (Switzerland), Ms. Attiat Mustafa Abdul Halim (Sudan), Mr. Guari Pradhan (Nepal) and Ms. Rozalyn Hazelle (St. Kitts and Nevis).

17. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Pires (Cape Verde), Mr. Dogan (Croatia), Mr. Dhakal (Nepal) and Ms. Schranz (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

18. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	186
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	185
Number of members voting:	185
Required majority:	93
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Moushira Khattab (Egypt)	130
Mr. Lothar Friedrich Krappman (Germany)	126
Ms. Joyce Aluoch (Kenya)	120
Ms. Lucy Smith (Norway)	119
Mr. Kamel Filali (Algeria)	117
Mr. Jakob Egbert Doek (the Netherlands)	113
Ms. Yanghee Lee (Republic of Korea)	112
Ms. Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic (Serbia and Montenegro)	112
Mr. Hatem Kotrane (Tunisia)	104
Ms. Marjorie Taylor (Jamaica)	104
Ms. Awa N'Deye Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)	91
Mr. Norberto Liwski (Argentina)	90
Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz (Paraguay)	83
Ms. Judith Karp (Israel)	77
Mr. Awich Pollar (Uganda)	73
Ms. Velina Todorova (Bulgaria)	73
Ms. Mazen Khadra (Syrian Arab Republic)	72
Ms. Silvia Izquierdo (Uruguay)	71
Ms. Ann-Therese Ndong-Jatta (Gambia)	67
Ms. Gabriela Coman (Romania)	64
Mr. Carlos Emilio Lopez Hurtado (Nicaragua)	62
Ms. Therese-Francoise Engambe (Congo)	61
Mr. Ertan Kahramanoglu (Turkey)	58
Ms. Ewa Miroslawa Katna (Poland)	43
Mr. Rusudan Beridze (Georgia)	28
Ms. Lois Bruthus (Liberia)	25
Ms. Assumpta Kaburahe-Naniwe (Burundi)	22
Ms. Galina Chirinciuc (Moldova)	16
Mr. Ksenofon Krisafi (Albania)	11

19. *Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Alluoch (Kenya), Mr. Doek (the Netherlands), Mr. Filali (Algeria), Ms. Khattab (Egypt), Mr. Kotrane (Tunisia), Mr. Krappman (Germany), Ms. Lee (Republic of Korea), Ms. Smith (Norway), Ms. Taylor (Jamaica), and Ms. Vuckovic-Sahovic (Serbia and Montenegro) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

20. **The Chairperson** said that, since only ten candidates had obtained the required majority, a second ballot, restricted to the six candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining vacancies on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting was suspended at 12.50 p.m.